

~~Providence~~

Providence, Nov. 30, 1863.

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Dear Friend - x x x

Your notice of the 3^d decade
of the American Antislavery Society, ^{was} recd
some days since. Briefly in a few lines:

An agreeable gathering of the ^{and} old, long tried
friends of the slave it surely must be. ~~and~~
~~Nothing~~ would give me more pleasure ^{than} to be one
of the number, and regret that I can not
enjoy that pleasure owing to my domestic
affairs. When I look back thirty years, what a
history ~~to a history~~ I behold! ~~the antislavery history~~
I ^{go} ~~begin~~ back to the ^{time} ~~date~~ of ~~July~~ 1829. ~~My~~
^{your} address on the 4th of July, ¹⁸²⁹ in the Park Street
Church ^{in Boston} ~~at 4 o'clock P.M.~~ published in Mrs.
Goodell's paper that made an impression on my
mind which I can never forget. I never saw you
until ^{after} your return from Baltimore. Prudence
Cranch's School for Colored girls in
Connecticut about 1831 or 1832. Our friend
Samuel May was the first Gentleman
abolitionist I recollect to have seen, at that

time abolitionists were considered of the lower
order of Men & Women. I recollect well meeting
you in Benson & Chace's store (the former - you
afterwards called Brother George) after your
return from Europe. You stated that you thought
it was time that we had a national organization
and think you were then bound for New York
to consult with friends there on the subject of
forming a National Antislavery Society. I recollect
right this was in October 1833 just previous
to the day of the eve to be remembered 23^d & 24th
December 1833. The New England Antislavery
Society you remarked would probably be
giving up, or supplanted by State Societies
which change came in a year or two after.

I used to call at Benson & Chace to get postcards
antislavery, but I did not accept the invitation
to join the New England Antislavery Society (Benson
Chace was secretary) until the 11th day of July 1834.
After listening to a long address from Elder
John Blaine at the Pine Street Baptist Church
the autumn of that year James George Thompson
Oct 1835 the Boston Mass Feb 1836 Rhode Island
State Antislavery Society was formed. The first
Annual meeting that I attended of the American
Antislavery Society at New York was in 1835, when
Chace's speech on the same platform with
George Thompson, James G. Birney, Wm. Cook of
Albany, now of Boston, and the other name

I am not sure but have the impression that it
was now a Chapman of that name is now
in Boston. What a vast amount of history has
been made by the anti-slavery enterprise since
that period. The gag rules in Congress, trampling
down petitions for abolishing slavery where Govern-
ment had the power. Although petitions are
now granted, slavery is illegal in the Federal
Capitol, and in all the Territories, which we
now possess or may hereafter acquire, a great point
has been gained. Truly, what we demanded in
the name of God and humanity twenty eight years
ago - of the Government, is now a reality.
Congress passed the bill by a large majority in both
houses and the President approved and signed it.
But the name, of the word abolition is not,
(although not as odious as it was twenty five
years ago,) a very popular name now,
and there is a cause for it. Hatred of the colored
man. I live to see the wicked Black Code of Missis-
sippi Indiana Ohio and a number of other States
repealed, by the Legislatures, moved to do it by the
pressure of the people from a sense of justice, and
right I shall rejoice. I have some times thought
that this particular subject was not agitated as much
as it should be, for it is clear it appears to me that
we must have freedom in the non-slave holding
States before we can truly have it in the slave

- States, nobly are the friends at work in Maryland
and other Border Slave States, to get rid of Slavery,
and there will be no less, to call the attention
and tax the energies of the Christian Philanthro-
pist thirty years to come than there has for
the thirty years that are now past, the freedmen
must be cared for, educated, instructed, elevated,

Hope your meeting will be one of joy
to the friends and useful to the Cause.

Truly yours A. Fairbanks

Nov. 30, 1863.

A. Fairbanks,
Providence,
R.I.

P.S. Please find enclosed three dollars for
my subscription to the Liberator

A. Fairbanks